



Loudoun County Sheriff's Office

Crime Prevention Unit



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

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Important Numbers:

Emergency: 911

Non-Emergency:

703-777-1021

703-777-0445

Poison Control:

1-800-222-1222

Animal Control:

703-777-0406

Sheriffs Office HQ:

703-771-0407

Narcotics Hotline:

703-779-0552

Crime Solvers:

703-777-1919

Issue 4

January 1, 2009

Thefts From Vehicles (52 incidents in December)

Loudoun County residents are still having items stolen from their vehicles. The most common items taken include GPS units, small electronics and money. Some ways to help prevent this are:

1. Remove all items from your vehicle when not in use. When you cannot do this, put the items inside the glove box (lockable ones are preferred).
2. A visible GPS unit is an obvious target, but car prowlers also look for any signs that one might be hidden inside the vehicle, such as a mount on the window or dashboard. Even the circle left on the windshield from a suction cup mount is enough for some crooks to break in. They assume a GPS unit is hidden somewhere inside. So get rid of all tell-tale signs.
3. Park inside your garage, if available, and keep the garage locked. Or, try to park near or under an illuminated area.
4. **KEEP YOUR VEHICLE LOCKED.** Most stolen items are taken from vehicles that are not locked.

If your vehicle is broken into remember to report it to the police. It is also helpful to have the serial numbers of the stolen items available when the deputies arrive.

County wide this is the most frequent criminal event. To help combat this ongoing issue please report suspicious persons you may see in and around your neighborhood.



Identity Theft / Credit Card Theft

Please be sure to check you credit and debit card statements very carefully. The holidays always bring an influx of identity theft and credit card theft incidents.

In many cases, victims of identity theft and credit card theft are not aware of

the theft for months. This is especially true during the holidays when we make so many purchases in such a short period of time.

Also, January is an excellent time to run your annual free credit report and look for any unusual accounts or inquiries.

Remember: The sooner these types of crime are detected the faster the matter can be corrected. The more monetary damage that is done the more paperwork and time it will take to get the matter resolved with financial institutions.



Post-Holiday Burglaries

As you begin a new year and start to put the holidays behind, remember thieves are still afoot. As we begin to discard boxes and wrapping please keep in mind that you do not want to advertise what you may have received as gifts. Burglars will watch trash in attempts to gain information concerning would be items of interest. By watching the outgoing trash burglars can preplan their crime and can prepare to take larger more expensive items such as HD televisions. By following a few easy tips you can make it more difficult for burglars to

know what may potentially be in your home.

- 1) Cut boxes down and place in garbage bags.
- 2) Do not place trash out at the curb until the morning when trash pickup is taking place.
- 3) Keep instruction manuals in a safe location. Do not discard right away.
- 4) Report any suspicious persons you may see in your neighborhood.



New Neighborhood Watch Manual

Beginning January 1, 2009 there will be a number of changes to the Neighborhood Watch Program. The new Neighborhood Watch manual will be distributed in early January. All coordinators will receive an e-copy of the manual that they can distribute to their watch members via e-mail. The manual covers all aspects of the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office Neighborhood Watch Programs as

well as a Homeland Security Preparedness Manual.

We are looking forward to a great year of new efforts and look forward to seeing more of our watch members at our future educational programs.



Construction Site Larcenies

There continues to be a surge in construction site larcenies throughout the county. Construction sites can be the target of thieves for a number of reasons from building supplies to copper metal. Most work sites do not do work after dark due to the safety risk and lack of lighting. The crime prevention unit suggest that if a citizens observes persons on a work site or around areas of construction in the evening after dark that they call

the Sheriff's Office and report the activity. Deputies will come out to the site and check to see if the persons are legitimate workers or would be thieves. Putting a stop to this activity will help deter other types of crime from finding their way into your neighborhood.

Remember:

When in doubt call it in!



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Who can I call if I suspect someone of gang activity?

The Gang Activity Hotline number is
1-888-NO-GANGS

Q: Who can I call if I suspect someone of selling drugs?

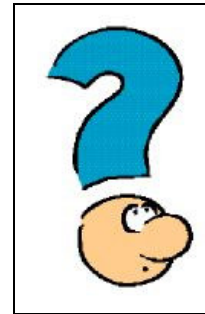
You can call our non-emergency number and make a report to a deputy.

OR

The Narcotics Tip line is
703-779-0552.

Q: Is there an ordinance for taking down Christmas Decorations?

There is not a county regulation that governs when Christmas Decorations must be taken down. However, many HOA's have regulations that pertain to holiday decoration and their timely removal. Please consult your HOA if applicable.



Please send your questions to:

Nathaniel.Payne@loudoun.gov

or

James.Spurlock@loudoun.gov

Suspicious Activity

The Loudoun County Sheriff's Office strongly encourages citizens to report any suspicious persons or activity in their neighborhoods. This is an extremely busy time of year for law enforcement and citizens can be the extra eyes and ears that will help us keep their community safer.

Upcoming Events

There are no upcoming educational events.

The Crime Prevention Unit will be spending the month of January packing and preparing to move to our new offices on or around January 27th.

Our new address will be 39 Catoctin Circle S.E. Leesburg, Va. 20176

We will be scheduling classes for February as they are requested.

Have a Safe and Happy New Year!

